

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00590 011440Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----075098 012355Z /64

R 011407Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0379

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0590

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, IS, EG, XF, US

SUBJECT: PERCEPTION OF THE BEGIN VISIT

REF: STATE 51239

1. DUTCH AMBASSADOR ARRIENS DISCUSSED BEGIN'S TRIP WITH EVRON SHORTLY BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR SCANDANAVIA. EVRON SAID NEGOTIATIONS, IN EFFECT, WERE DEADLOCKED. THIS WAS BECAUSE EGYPTIANS HAD HARDENED THEIR POSITION AS RESULT OF THEIR UNREALISTIC EXPECTATION PRESIDENT CARTER COULD BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN ISRAEL'S POSITION DURING BEGIN'S WASHINGTON VISIT. ONCE IT BECAME CLEAR BEGIN, BUTTRESSED BY DAYAN AND WEIZMAN, WOULD NOT YIELD TO U.S. PRESSURE, WAY WOULD THEN BE OPEN FOR EGYPTIANS TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY WHAT CONCESSIONS THEY PREPARED TO MAKE, THEREBY OVERCOMING IMPASSE.

2. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR LEWIS OBVIOUSLY IS IN BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE TO WHAT EXTENT FOREGOING REFLECTS CONSIDERED GOI POSITION AT HIGHEST LEVEL. HOWEVER, IT IS CONSISTENT

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WITH HAIM LANDAU'S STATEMENT TO THE "JERUSALEM POST" MARCH 1 "IF PRESIDENT SADAT THINKS THAT HE CAN OBTAIN THROUGH AMERICAN PRESSURE WHAT HE COULD NOT GET THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, HE IS VERY WRONG." AN OPTIMISTIC READING WOULD BE THAT EVRON, A POLISHED PROFESSIONAL, SIMPLY SEEKING TO SHIFT ONUS FOR LACK OF PROGRESS ONTO EGYPTIANS WITHOUT GETTING INTO DETAILS.

NEWLIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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